Waiting list of Telephone Connections in Ayaskunnam

1814. SHRI JOY NADUKARA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the waiting list of telephone connections at Ayaskunnam Exchange in Kottayam district, Kerala; and

(b) by when the list is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) Waiting list as on 1.2.1997 at Ayarkunnam exchange, in Kottayam district, is 1808. It is proposed to clear the waiting list by expanding the exchange to 3000 lines during 1997-98.

(b) The above wait-list is likely to be cleared by the end of 1997-98.

Decline in Postal Services

1815. SHRI SHIV CHARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that efficiency of postal services have recently declined;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, Government's reaction to a large number of complaints of very late delivery of letters as also to late issue of letters?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. While postal services have been generally satisfactory, there are occasional delays to mails due to bottlenecks in the transportation of mail and late running of mail carrying planes, trains and buses. Delivery of mails in some areas in large cities and towns is also under stress due to inadequate delivery manpower. Some instances of delays occur due to sudden and exceptionally heavy volume of seasonal mails like Corporate mails and Greetings mails.

The movement of mails is constantly monitored and possible measures taken to improve the position. Regarding delivery in large cities the additional work is managed through redeployment of staff to the extent possible.

Postal and Telephone facilities in rural areas of U.P. and Maharashtra

1816. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no significant progress in respect of postal and telephone facilities has been made in the rural areas of Maharashtra and U.P.; and

(b) the details of the works which have enhanced these facilities during the last three years in the rural areas of U.P. and Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) No, Sir, during the 8th Five Year Plan (1992-93) to (1996-97), 172 Extra-Departmental Branch Post Offices (EDBOS) and 61 Departmental Sub Post Offices (DSOs) were sanctioned in Maharashtra as against a target of 163 EDBOs and 51 DSOs. In Uttar Pradesh, 231 EDBOs and 38 DSOs have been sanctioned against a target of 206 EDBOs and 73 DSOs.

(b) The details of work which have enhanced the postal facilities during the last three years in rural areas of U.P. and Maharashtra in terms of expansion of postal network are given in the statement (*See* below). Apart from these, very Small Apperture Terminals (VSATs) have been installed at the following places:—

In Maharashtra

1. Pune	2. Dadar HO
3. Nagpur	4. Bombay GPO
5. Aurangabad	6. Panaji

In Uttar Pradesh

1. Kanpur
2. Varanasi
3. Allahabad
4. Lucknow
5. Bareilly
6. Saharanpur

Information regarding progress in telephone facilities made in Maharashtra and U.P. is bieng collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Details of expansion of postal network in rural areas in U.P. and Maharashtra

Name of State	Year	Number of Post Offices opened/upgraded		Number of Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras opened
		Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices (EDBOs)	Departmental Sub Post Offices (DSOs)	
Uttar Pradesh	1994-95	—	2	—
	1995-96	—	1	236
	1996-97	38	2	69(Sanctioned)
	TOTAL:	38	5	305
Maharashtra	1994-95	—	1	—
	1995-96	—	1	—
	1996-97	27	1	17(Sanctioned)
	TOTAL:	27	3	17

Suspension of New Internet Connection by VSNL

1817. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that VSNL has suspended providing new internet links;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of subscribers opted for internet so far in the towns of Calcutta, Chennai, Mumbai and Pune; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) and (b) Sir, provision of new Internet links have been temporarily suspended by VSNL due to congestion in Internet needs of VSNL at Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta, Chennai, Bangalore and Pune.

(c) and (d) The details regarding number of subscribers opted for internet are given in the statement attached herewith.